ABSTRACT OF DEATHS.

	Albert.				Wilberfrce.				Soudan.			
	Officer	Men		Total.	Officer	Men		Total.	Officer	Men		Total.
		w	c			w	c			w	c	
Coast							1	1				1
River Fever	7	12		19	1	6		7	5	8	13	39
Effects of climate on worn out constitutions		2		2								2
Apoplexy							1	1				1
Casualties		2	1	3		1		1		1	1	5
	7	16	1	24	1	7	2	10	5	9	14	48

	Albert.	Wilberforce.	Soudan
Number of days at the mouth of the River within the bar	8	9	9
Ditto up the River	56	36	31
Total number of days in the River	64	45	40

BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS.

COMMANDER BIRD ALLEN.—(See Obituary, p. 143.)—He entered the navy as a student at the Royal Naval College in Oct. 1817, from which he joined the Larne in the Mediterranean, successively commanded by Captains H. Forbes and R. Tait. Afterwards we find him in the Phaeton, Capt. Sturt, in the Channel, and Forte, Capt. Sir T. Cochrane in the West Indies, on which station he continued in the Dartmouth and Scylla obtaining his lieutenant's rank in the latter vessel. In 1829, he joined the Blossom as lieutenant, and continued with her Commander, Richard Owen, in that ship, and the Thunder, both of which were occupied in the survey of the West Indies. He obtained his rank as Commander in 1838, and with that devoted zeal in the cause of humanity which formed a prominent feature of his character, he embarked his services in the late ill-fated expedition to the Niger. To the forlorn but noble objects of this enterprise he fell a victim, lamented by all who knew his public value, and his private worth;—for he was firm and energetic, though mild and gentle,—of high attainments in every branch of his profession, yet modest and unassuming,—unbending in principle, yet encouraging and forbearing to others;—his loss is indeed great to his country, and irretrievable to his friends.

THE LATE COMMANDER SLATER, R.N.—(See Obituary.)—The following letter from Lieut. Kortwright, R.N., employed with the late Commander Slater, in surveying the coast of Scotland, announced the event with which most of our readers are already acquainted.

Thurso, Caithness, Feb. 3rd, 1842.

"SIR.—I regret exceedingly, that it becomes my painful duty to announce the melancholy death of Commander Slater, which sad event took place yesterday afternoon, under the following distressing circumstances;—

"About noon of yesterday, Capt. Slater left Thurso, (on horseback,) for the purpose (as generally supposed,) of visiting and examining the coast to the westward of Holburn Head, there being a very heavy sea running at the time.

"Late in the evening, the horse returned without its rider. Search was immediately made, as far as the darkness of the night would permit, and again renewed this morning at daylight for Capt. S., which I am grieved to state, terminated in the conviction that he must have fallen over the cliff, (nearly 300 feet in height,) and perished, which conviction I was induced to come to, from the fact of his whip being found close to the edge of the precipice, together with the track of the horse to the same spot.

"From the depth of water, and the heavy sea breaking on this iron bound shore, (which precluded the possibility of a boat living near the spot,) I much fear no hope can be entertained of recovering the body."

"I have the honour, &c, "A. KORTWRIGHT, *Lieut., R.N.*"

Commander Slater entered the service in August, 1811, on board the Rota, Capt. Somerville, and served in her and the Creole on the French coast; from which latter ship he joined the Phœnix, Capt. C. J. Austen, and proceeded in her to the Mediterranean. The Phœnix was wrecked near Smyrna, on the 3rd of February,

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1816, after which, the subject of our memoir joined the Aid, under Capt. W. H. Smyth, whose extensive and accurate surveys of the coasts of Italy, Greece, and Africa, are so well known. It was, while surveying with this officer, that Commander Slater laid the foundation of that eminent skill which he possessed as a Nautical surveyor and draftsman, and in which he was not surpassed by any of those highly distinguished surveying-officers who at present do such honour to the Navy. His appointment to the Aid took place in January, 1817, and he continued his useful labours in the Mediterranean in that ship, and in command of the Nimble cutter as Lieutenant, till 1827. For the last thirteen years he has been employed in surveying the coasts of Northumberland and Scotland, by which he earned his rank of Commander in January, 1837, and eventually perished in the actual fulfilment of those duties in which he so much excelled. He leaves a widow without children to mourn the event, which deprives the service of one of its brightest ornaments.

Acting Appointments and Removals in the Niger Expedition.

Commanders—E. G. Fishbourne (act.) to *Soudan*, and placed in temporary command of *Albert*.

Lieutenants—W. H. Webb (act.) to *Albert*—H. C. Toby, (act.) and F. W. Sidney (act.) to *Wilberforce*.

Mr. Fairholm is also promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Master—W. H. T. Green (act.) to *Wilberforce*.

Surgeon—J. R. H. Thompson (act.) to *Soudan*.

Purser—W. R. Bush (act.) to *Wilberforce*.

Clerk—R. Mouat (act.) to *Albert*.

Removals—Lieut. J. N. Strange from *Wilberforce* to *Albert*.

Master—W. Forster from *Wilberforce* to *Albert*.

The Commander's and Lieutenants appointments have been confirmed.

Admiralty Orders.

Admiralty, Jan. 20th, 1842

The Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty considering it desirable that in all her Majesty's steam vessels, except those employed as Mail steam packets on the home stations, there shall be as many engineers' boys borne as engineers, and that the pay of the engineers of the second class shall be increased by placing boys under their instruction with the same allowance of 6d. per diem for each boy so instructed, as was granted by her Majesty's Order in Council of 19th of January, 1837, to engineers of the first class. And her Majesty having been graciously pleased by her Order in Council of the 15th inst. to sanction the allowance of 6d. a day for each engineer boy placed under the instruction of the second class engineer, the following rules and regulations are in future to be observed, viz.

The first class engineer to have the instruction of two boys as heretofore, with the 6d. per day for each.

When there are three boys the second class engineer to instruct the junior boy of the three.

When there are four boys, the senior second class engineer is to instruct the third boy. The junior second class engineer the fourth boy.

By command of their lordshps,
SIDNEY HERBERT.

Admiralty, Feb. 4th, 1842.

With a view to prevent accidents in steam vessels by fire from the spontaneous ignition of coals in the bunkers from wet or other causes, My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty are pleased to direct that the commanding officers of all steam vessels shall take the greatest care that the coals be not shipped wet, and that they be kept as dry as possible when shipped.

Their lordships are also pleased to direct that, before a supply of coals is taken on board a steam vessel, the coals remaining in the boxes be so trimmed as to ensure their being first used.

By command of their lordships,
SIDNEY HERBERT.

Admiralty, Feb. 16th, 1842.

Manufacturers of Marine Engines, whose tenders are accepted by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, are desired to take notice that it is their lordships' intention to appoint a first class Engineer to each of her Majesty's steam-vessels before any part of the machinery is put on board, for the purpose of seeing each portion accurately weighed, with a view to ascertain and certify that the total weight mentioned in the specification be bona fide not exceeded.

It will, likewise, be the duty of the said first class engineer to see each of the spare articles actually tried in its place, before it is stowed away on board.

The said Manufacturers are desired, in order to give effect to this regulation, to give fourteen days' notice to the Secretary of the Admiralty before the several parts of the machinery are ready to be weighed.

Parties receiving this communication are requested to acknowledge the receipt of it.

By command of their lordships,
SIDNEY HERBERT.

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